



Gearing Up For Your Transitions

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What public transportation is available in Delaware?

There are a variety of transportation services available to Delawareans. As of the writing of the website, DART provides transportation state-wide with 57 fixed bus routes, as well as train services from Wilmington to Philadelphia. Individuals with physical limitations may require and qualify for specialized transportation options such as PARA transit or Senior Citizens Affordable Taxi (SCAT). SCAT provides a 50% fair reduction when using the services of certain taxi vendors recognized by DART and is available to not only senior citizens, but to persons with disabilities as well. To find out if you qualify and to get additional information visit the websites of each of these services using the links below.

[DART](#) – State Bus Service

[PARA transit](#) – Specialized Transportation

[SCAT](#) – Senior Citizen's Affordable Taxi

You can always call a taxi service and can find them by either looking on line or by using the telephone book. However, as of this writing Delaware does not have a taxi service that provides transportation for riders in wheelchairs.

Travelling farther distances may require additional planning for persons with disabilities. For travel by air or rail you may wish to call ahead to get accurate information on what you should expect and how to make arrangements for any special accommodations you may need.

What is DART?

DART is a transportation organization with accessible interconnected services. They provide Paratransit and Senior Citizen Affordable Taxi services. Paratransit offers door to door rides.


Who is Eligible for Paratransit?

Paratransit services are provided for individuals with disabilities as well as Senior Citizens 65 or older that are unable to access the fixed bus routes.

Who Qualifies for Paratransit?

Under the ADA, there are three categories under which a person can be eligible for ADA Paratransit Services:

- The person is unable, as the result of a physical or mental impairment, to independently, get on or get off a bus on the fixed route; or
- The person needs the assistance of a wheelchair lift or other boarding assistance and is able to get on, ride, and get off a bus, but such fixed route bus is not available on the route when the individual wants to travel; or
- The person has a specific impairment-related condition that prevents travel to or from a bus stop in the system.

More information about eligibility is available [on the ADA website](#). 

How do you apply for DART Services?

- Request an application from DART First State by calling 800.553.3278 or [download](#) and print the application from their web site.
- Read the application and fill out Part A.
- If you are 65 years of age or older and do not have a disability, please complete Part A only and send us verification of your age (copy of your driver's license, birth certificate, etc.)
- If you have a disability, bring or send the application (Part A and B) to your health care professional and have them complete Part B. Both Part A and Part B must be completed for your application to be considered.
- Mail your completed application to:

DART First State - ADA Eligibility
900 Public Safety Blvd
Dover, DE 19901
or fax to our Dover office at 302.760.2932

How will I know if I qualify for Paratransit Services?

- If you have not heard about your eligibility status within 21 days of submitting your application, please call 800.553.3278. TDD users please call 800.252.1600.
- If a determination has not yet been made, you will be granted temporary eligibility until a determination has been made regarding your application.
- If you are denied eligibility, you have a right to appeal the decision. Please contact DART First State for details on the appeals process.

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How do I get a Delaware Driver's license?

In order to receive a Delaware driver's license, there are several steps that need to be taken. A student between 15 (10th grade) & 21 who is enrolled in school can take a state certified driver training course, often offered right at the school. All public and private high schools with twenty five or more enrolled 10th grade students shall offer Driver Education as part of the curriculum. If you are underage and need assistance visit: [Delaware Department of Motor Vehicles Parent Supervised Driving Program](#) (the parents supervised driver training program is a guide to teen licensing.)

Title 14 (Education) of the Delaware Administrative Code, Section 500(curriculum and Instruction) in section 540 (Drivers Education) gives the following information.

If I fail the driver education course, can I take the course again?

1.1.1 For a student with an active Individual Education Program (IEP), the Individualized Education Program Team, in consultation with the Driver Education teacher, may make accommodations to the Driver Education program, including but not limited to, allowing multiple opportunities to take the driver education course, delaying the course until the 11th or 12th grade, taking the course across two semesters and offering specialized instruction and related services through the student's Individual Education Program (IEP).

How long do I have to take the driver education course?

1.1.2 A student who is receiving special education services under an active Individual Education Program (IEP) shall be authorized until the age of 21 to complete the driver education certification.

Do I have to pay for taking the course again?

1.1.3 A student with an active IEP retaking the driver education course because of failing the initial driver education course shall not be required to pay a fee for taking the course additional times.

What if I am homeschooled or just moved into the State?

1.3 Delaware students who are residents attending school out of state as 10th graders, students in excess of the September 30th unit allotment, students attending private schools in the state with 10th grade enrollments of less than twenty-five homeschooled students and any student approved by the Secretary as an exceptional case are entitled to attend summer driver education without charge. Districts shall notify all nonpublic and public high schools in their district by May 1st annually as to the location of the nearest summer driver education program. Summer Driver Education shall be offered between June 10 and August 31 and each request for free tuition must be approved by the Secretary of Education through the Director overseeing driver education.

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What is required in the Driver Education Program?

2.0 Requirements for Class Time

2.1 The driver education course shall include a minimum of forty four (44) class hours of instruction consisting of thirty (30) class hours of classroom instruction, seven (7) class hours of in the car behind the wheel laboratory instruction and seven (7) hours of actual observation in the car. The class hours must not be less than forty five (45) minutes each. For those schools with varying class schedules the minimum classroom instruction must be no less than one thousand three hundred fifty (1350) minutes and behind the wheel laboratory instruction no less than three hundred fifteen (315) minutes.

2.2 Driving simulators may be substituted for the required hours of behind the wheel laboratory instruction but only up to three (3) hours of time at the ratio of four (4) hours of driving simulation to one (1) hour of actual behind the wheel laboratory instruction.

2.3 Off the street driving ranges or multiple driving ranges that are off the street may be substituted for actual behind the wheel laboratory instruction up to three (3) hours time at the ratio of two (2) hours of range instruction time to one (1) hour of actual behind the wheel laboratory instruction time.

2.4 Driving simulation and off the street driving range time shall not be taken from or cause a reduction of classroom instruction time.

2.5 Driving simulation and off the street driving range time shall not be substituted for more than one half (1/2) of the total required seven (7) hours of actual behind the wheel laboratory instruction and only at the ratios defined in 2.0. This includes individually or in any combination.

3.0 Curriculum

The Driver Education teachers shall use the statewide curriculum for driver education developed by the Department of Education for classroom instruction and behind the wheel laboratory instruction time. Teachers should include student activities requiring reading, writing and research as part of the Driver Education curriculum.

4.0 Final Grades

4.1 Final grades for the forty four hour driver education course shall be either pass or fail. Schools may grant one fourth (1/4) credit for successful completion of the minimum hours in both the classroom and the behind the wheel laboratory experience. The one fourth of a credit for driver education may be included as part of the elective credits counted toward graduation.

4.2 Pass or Fail grades must be received by the Department of Education no later than June 30th for Regular Driver Education Programs and August 31st for Summer Driver Education Programs. Final grades will be maintained by the Department for a seven year period.

What do I do if I need an Accessible Vehicle to take the driver education course?

In the event that a person requires an accessible vehicle, or a vehicle requires modifications, schools will provide information on a special Adapted Driving Program. The driving portion of the driver education course is handled by a Certified Driver Rehabilitation School. [There are three certified in Delaware.](#)

They can also give the students information on where to purchase a new or used vehicle, information regarding accommodations, and possible sources of financial assistance with modifications.

Who do I contact for assistance with paying for vehicle modifications?

If you have a Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Counselor you can contact them to see if they have funding for this or if they can point you in the right direction. Currently DVR is working with Easter Seals and they can assist with assistive technology for home, work, or vehicle modifications, with low interest loans. Counselors help guide you through the process. For more information, email resources@esdel.org or call (302) 221-2087 [Easter Seals Program](#). Also, if you buy a new vehicle sometimes the manufacture offers a stipend for the modifications.

For additional information, including certified training programs within the state, and other requirements, visit the [Delaware Department of Motor Vehicles](#) website.

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